

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application in view of the following remarks is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 2 are currently active in this case. Claim 1 has been amended to include the feature of claim 5 and claim 5 has been cancelled by the current amendment. No new matter has been added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 1, 2, and 5 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. published patent application No. 20020185726 to North in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,172,213 to Zimmerman and U.S. patent No. 5,606,201 to Lutz. Applicants respectfully traverse the obviousness rejection of dependent claim 5. In particular, for the reasons discussed below, Applicants traverse the assertion that “North discloses the semiconductor device wherein the power semiconductor element 10 is electrically connected to the inner lead part 12 of the external connecting terminal 17 via the conductive pipe 24, fig. 4”

Briefly recapitulating, in claim 1 (as amended) of the present application, the power semiconductor element is cooled directly from the conductive pipe, and the power semiconductor element is electrically connected to the inner lead part of the external connecting terminal via the conductive pipe. That is, a wire is not required to electrically connect the terminal (e.g., 6) and the power semiconductor device. See, e.g., Figure 1 and page 5 lines 6-11 of the specification.

In contrast thereof, in North's structure illustrated in Fig. 4, wire bond 11 connects power terminal 12 and chip 10. North does not teach or suggest any electrical connection between the chip 10 and the pipe 25. As matter of fact, an insulator 15 is provided between the chip 10 and the pipe 25.

Neither Lutz or Zimmerman remedies the deficiency of North. Consequently, North is not believed to anticipate or render obvious the subject matter defined by claim 1, when considered alone or in combination with Lutz or Zimmerman.

No further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application and the application is believed to be in condition for allowance. An early and favorable action is therefore respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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